

# Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

**Hard to spell.  
Easy to kill.**



Disinfectant Spray

Kills germs on hard, nonporous surfaces,\*  
**INCLUDING MRSA!**

*Disinfect  
To Protect.™*



\* When used as directed.

# Increase in MRSA cases alarms public!

## Facts You Should Know About MRSA:

### Q: What is MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus)?

MRSA describes strains of staphylococcus aureus, commonly known as staph, that are resistant to many frequently used antibiotics. Many people carry staph on their skin or in the nose without signs of infection, but if it gets into cuts or abrasions, it may cause infection of the skin or soft tissue. Typically, patients in hospitals and healthcare facilities are at the highest risk of infection due to compromised immune systems. In this setting, bacteria can easily spread when handwashing compliance is not strictly followed.



### Q: What are the symptoms of a staph or MRSA infection?

Staph-related skin infections may look like a pimple or boil and can be red, swollen, painful, and have pus or other drainage. More serious infections may cause pneumonia, bloodstream infections, or surgical wound infections.

### Q: What is CA-MRSA?

Infections that originate outside of a health care facility are called CA-MRSA, where CA means community associated. Most CA-MRSA infections appear as skin infections and occur in otherwise healthy people. The CDC has identified the following 5 factors, referred to as the 5 C's, that create ideal conditions for the transmission of MRSA:

- **CROWDING**
- Frequent skin-to-skin **CONTACT**
- **COMPROMISED** skin (i.e., cuts or abrasions)
- **CONTAMINATED** items and surfaces
- Lack of **CLEANLINESS**

Locations where the 5 C's are common include schools, dormitories, military barracks, correctional facilities, daycare centers and homes.



### Q: How is MRSA spread, and how can we prevent it?

MRSA is usually transmitted by direct skin-to-skin contact or contact with surfaces that have been directly exposed to another person's infection. Individuals can avoid MRSA infections by practicing good hygiene. Good hygiene practices include:

- Keep hands clean by washing or by using hand sanitizers.
- Regularly clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces.
- Keep cuts and breaks in the skin clean and covered until they are healed.
- Avoid contact with the wounds or bandages of others.
- Don't share personal items like razors or towels.

## Another Fact You Should Know About MRSA:



## Disinfectant Spray **KILLS MRSA!**

While MRSA may be resistant to antibiotics, it is not resistant to LYSOL®. Help prevent the spread of MRSA by using LYSOL® Brand Disinfectant Spray on surfaces.

See complete list of products on back page.



# Here's what the CSPA<sup>†</sup> says about the role of disinfectants in the prevention of MRSA

"Disinfectant products can kill even antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria. Real-life studies have confirmed that the use of disinfectant products does not contribute to the development of antibiotic resistance which is often associated with the frequent use of antibiotic drugs. At the same time, the use of disinfectant products plays an important role in public safety."

## MRSA in schools

### Should schools close because of a MRSA infection?

In most cases, it is not necessary to close schools to "disinfect" them when MRSA infections occur. When MRSA skin infections occur, cleaning and disinfection should be performed on surfaces that are likely to contact uncovered or poorly covered infections. Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces with EPA-registered products is effective at removing MRSA from the environment.

### Practical Advice for Teachers

If you observe children with open draining wounds or infections, refer the child to the school nurse. Covering infections will greatly reduce the risks of surfaces becoming contaminated with MRSA.

Enforce hand washing with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand sanitizers before eating and after using the bathroom.



## HA MRSA (Healthcare Associated MRSA)



MRSA occurs most frequently among patients who undergo invasive medical procedures or who have weakened immune systems and are being treated in hospitals and healthcare facilities such as nursing homes and dialysis centers. Invasive MRSA commonly causes serious and potentially life threatening infections, such as bloodstream infections, surgical site infections, or pneumonia.

CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) studies have confirmed that, within healthcare settings, the proportion of infections that are antimicrobial resistant has been growing. In 1974, MRSA infections accounted for two percent of the total number of staph infections; in 1995 it was 22%; in 2004 it was 63%.

For additional articles on MRSA, please visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or the VNAA Germ Protection Center, sponsored by LYSOL® ([www.vnaa.org](http://www.vnaa.org)).



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PROFESSIONAL

## EPA-Registered Products Effective Against MRSA

### Professional LYSOL® Brand



**Disinfectant Spray**

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